transportation. A relief ferry flight was also operated on 26.6.2005.

(e) and (f) Do not arise due to (a), (b) and (c) above.

Pilots with AI

818. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign pilots recruited by Air India in the last three years;

(b) the reasons for recruiting foreign pilots by Air India;

(c) the wage and salary differentials between Indian and foreign pilots;

(d) the steps proposed to encourage Indian pilots by Air India; and

(e) the number of Indian pilots presently on the payroll of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has recruited 27 foreign pilots on contract during the last 3 years due to shortage of qualified pilots on various aircraft types.

(c) Foreign pilots are inducted purely on contract basis for a period of one year on fixed salary exclusive of any other facilities being given to Indian Pilots who are on regular pay roll of Air India. The salaries offered to Indian pilots are in range of Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs p.m. (including allowances), whereas the foreign pilots are being paid consolidatd salary from Rs. 2.61 lakhs to Rs. 4.00 lakhs p.m. depending on the aircraft being operated by them.

(d) Air India is offering attractive packages to the Indian pilots with job security. Besides this, Air India has taken various steps to overcome shortage by resorting to large scale induction of *ab initio* pilots by recruiting pilots every 3 to 4 months and training has been given highest priority to ensure that Air India has adequate number of trained Indian pilots to replace foreign pilots.

(e) 490 Indian pilots are presently on the pay roll of Air India including trainee pilots and pilots on contract.